

25X1A

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EYES ONLY
SENSITIVE
MEMORANDUM FOR:

Before [REDACTED] arrived we discussed at some length the planning for the Tchepone operation. SVN planning in this connection has come to NVN attention

[REDACTED] Apparently acting on presidential direction there will be a hold down [REDACTED] and this will complicate our analysis problem. We all agreed to stay in close touch and try to insure that with regard to [REDACTED] we receive enough data to make sense in our publications.

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EYES ONLY
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1/28/71
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

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SENSITIVE

28 January 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 28 January Meeting of the Indochina Steering Group

- 25X1A 1. [REDACTED] joined us for the meeting and described the situation in Paris, particularly within the delegation. In answer to a question [REDACTED] said he had no major problems with regard to support from Headquarters. There were a few things he needed, but they were not major and he was taking them up with [REDACTED] 25X1A
- 25X1A 2. [REDACTED] reported that operation [REDACTED] in central Laos encountered "relative success." The operation has tied up as many as five enemy Binh Trams. The enemy is reacting to the operation, but by the time significant reaction occurs, [REDACTED] the friendlies will probably have left. [REDACTED] referred to a couple of reports OER has issued on the impact of [REDACTED] (Action: Is the OCI/FE Division receiving these? If not, please obtain. I would be interested in knowing what they have to say.) 25X1A
- 25X1D 3. We discussed the growing threat west of the Plaine des Jarres. I explained that we held off reporting on this yesterday pending receipt of [REDACTED] 25X1D
- 25X1A [REDACTED] We intended to print something today. [REDACTED] reported that as far as Long Tieng is concerned, it is only inhabited by "cooks and bottle washers." He also noted that there is only about half of an FAR battalion at Muong Sui. [REDACTED] said that he continues to have a problem trying to figure out the nature of a political rationale of any Communist decision to take Long Tieng. The implication was that we have cried wolf about the threat to Long Tieng for almost two years now and nothing's happened. [REDACTED] asked 25X1A

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(and no one answered) why is an NVA regiment within 15 miles of Luang Prabang. With respect to the threat to the PDJ, [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] is sending a very long sitrep pertaining to this via teletape and it should be received in Headquarters later today or tomorrow. We may want to hold up reporting until we have a look at this.

4. [REDACTED] reported on the status of work connected with NSSM 99. Kissinger had asked for more work to be done on the political sections.

6. [REDACTED] reported on a breakthrough in connection with [REDACTED]. Obtaining high priority for this work has been a problem for this Agency in dealing with MACV. This has now been worked out and prospects for meeting our needs are better than they have been. [REDACTED] noted, however, that this kind of activity is tending to be cut back and phased down in accordance with American withdrawals.

7. I passed around copies of a draft PDB annex on the situation in southern Laos and invited comments.

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